

JOURNAL

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PUTTING "STRUCTURE" IN BPA's INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the next five years, BPA will add hundreds of miles of new lines to the Northwest's transmission system, including about 450 miles of 500-kilovolt lines. To get the job done, BPA's structural design group will monitor the production of components for thousands of new transmission towers.

BPA has chosen to use an identical tower design for all the 500-kV lines to ensure greater efficiency in the construction process and substantial savings in costs.

The process starts with acquiring about 80 million pounds of tower steel. To put this in perspective, it would take a convoy about 40 miles long with over one thousand 18-wheelers to ship all of the steel by truck.

After a dramatic market slowdown during the last decade, most U.S. manufacturers have left the tower steel business, so BPA will purchase much of the needed steel from Spain and Italy.

BPA staff conceives and defines the design, then coordinates with designers working for steel fabricators in the U.S., Italy and Spain.

Next, detailed drawings are prepared for production facilities in Mexico and Brazil that will produce

prototype towers. Full scale testing of new tower designs at sites in Mexico, Brazil, Italy or South Africa will help assure high transmission system reliability as well as proper tower assembly.

After completing the testing and making any needed design changes, the tower parts will be manufactured at production plants around the globe.



Over the next few years, BPA expects to string hundreds of miles of new transmission lines on thousands of new steel transmission towers.

UTILITIES CHECK TBL's PRIORITIES

Experts from the Northwest's largest utilities are reviewing the BPA Transmission Business Line's plans for beefing up the transmission grid.


Earlier this year, BPA committed to seek outside review of its transmission infrastructure proposal.

"We intend to get needed transmission improvements under way in partnership with the

region," said Vickie VanZandt, TBL vice president for operations and planning.

The proposed construction projects are needed to strengthen the grid to help relieve congestion, meet reliability standards and alleviate the Western power situation. Reviewers come from the Northwest Power Pool's Transmission Planning Committee. Attendees at a kick-off meeting Aug. 3 included representatives from PacifiCorp, Seattle City Light,





Avista, Montana Power, Snohomish PUD, Portland General Electric, Idaho Power and Puget Sound Energy.

The group is reviewing the first nine projects of BPA's infrastructure proposal to assure that the proposed transmission priorities provide the most cost-effective, reliable service for the region's consumers. A report should be out to BPA soon.

WATER STORAGE UP SLIGHTLY

The Northwest Power Planning Council has stated that BPA has a 12 percent probability of not meeting winter load if storage reservoirs have the equivalent of 28,000 megawatt-months of water by Sept. 30. BPA has been buying power and storing water wherever possible to ensure sufficient water to meet loads. With these purchases and actual streamflows better than forecast, system storage was at roughly 30,000 MW-months in early September.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CHALLENGE KICKS OFF

Energy conservation is on the air. A BPA/customer sponsored Community Conservation Challenge kicked off Monday, Aug. 27 with ads on 10 radio stations across the region. The ads are running for two weeks.

The Challenge, which runs through December, is designed to help BPA's full-service customers reduce their power demand by as much as 150 average megawatts through changes in consumer behavior.

Following close on the heels of the radio campaign, conservation pledge cards will be inserted in several regional newspapers. A number of utilities plan to send the pledge cards out as bill stuffers, and others plan to distribute the cards at local events or at their offices.

People can indicate on the cards that they will do three or more things on their own to save energy. Those who send back the completed cards are automatically entered in a drawing for a new energy-efficient hybrid car valued at \$20,500.

For more information, look on the Web at <http://www.bpa.gov/ccs> or call 1-800-962-9731.

SPILL REGIME WRAPS UP FOR YEAR

As of the end of August, the year's spill program for migrating juvenile salmon was completed.

Federal hydro operators began a very limited summer spill regimen on July 24 at Bonneville and The Dalles dams. On Aug. 8, the federal agencies increased the limited spill at these dams, where the National Marine Fisheries Service had determined that it would provide the greatest biological benefits. Spill was increased from 30 to 40 percent at The Dalles Dam, 24 hours a day; and from 45,000 cubic feet per second at Bonneville Dam for five hours a day to 50,000 cfs, 24 hours a day.

BPA made up for the lost generation by drawing water from storage reservoirs and by purchasing electricity in the market.


During the past year, BPA has declared power system emergencies that have reduced measures on behalf of endangered fish. At the time of the August increase, Power and Operations Planning Manager Therese Lamb said, "We believe these actions were appropriate and necessary, but it also is appropriate that as conditions ease somewhat, BPA make good faith efforts to balance the needs of fish with reliability and financial solvency needs."

FOREST FIRES RAGE; BPA LINES UNDAMAGED

The BPA transmission system has so far escaped the wrath of forest and brush fires burning in the Western states. In late August, only one line was taken out of service to protect fire fighters.

Thursday, Aug. 16, the Grand Coulee-Olympia 287-kilovolt line was de-energized for about a half hour to protect fire crews battling a half-acre blaze directly under the line a few miles from Olympia, Wash.

The most serious incident so far occurred the weekend of Aug. 4 during the battle against the Indian Springs fire in Southern Oregon when lines of the AC intertie arced to ground six times in the



heat and heavy smoke. The intertie was returned to its full 4,300 megawatt capacity as of Aug. 6. No customer services were affected by these outages.

NUCLEAR PLANT IS BACK

The Columbia Generating Station nuclear plant returned to full power production early Aug. 3 after completing repair of a recirculation pump shaft seal. The repair went smoothly.

SORTING OUT THE FISH PLANS

Several different-but-related fish papers are out for public comment or expected to be issued this fall. Here are the titles and the distinctions:

Draft Implementation Plan for FCRPS Biological Opinions

This is the 10-year, All-H structure for implementing the 2002-2006 Biological Opinions on Federal Columbia River Power System operations. Produced jointly by BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, it can be found on the Federal Caucus Web site at www.salmonrecovery.gov.

Draft FCRPS Detailed Annual Action Plan for FY 2002

This will build on the framework established in the Draft Implementation Plan, and will list specific actions, including detailed work plans, that BPA, the Corps and Reclamation propose to take in fiscal year 2002. It is expected to come out for public review this fall. FY 2002 begins Oct. 1.

Draft Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS

This is what is called a "programmatic EIS." It looks at the potential impacts of a wide range of potential fish and wildlife policy choices that BPA and other Federal Caucus agencies face, immediately and in the next few years. The idea is to make sure individual decisions are all tested against the full range of other possibilities and other actions. Produced by BPA, it can be found on BPA's Environment, Fish and Wildlife Web site at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/FishWildlifeImplementation>.

AIR QUALITY STUDY RESULTS: NO VIOLATIONS

If all 24,000 megawatts of combustion turbines now planned for BPA's service area were actually built, the resulting emissions would not violate any state or federal air quality regulations. That is the conclusion of a study commissioned by BPA on possible integration of proposed power plants into its power grid. It is expected that only a fraction will be built – only a fourth to a third are needed to meet North-west loads.

"The study did not show any violations of standards under the Clean Air Act," said study manager Deb Malin. "It did show a decrease in visibility (haze) on a few days or up to 20 days a year in some sensitive areas, particularly if all proposed plants were actually built." Visibility is not a regulated air standard, Malin noted.

"We are sharing the study with state regulators. It's information they can consider in awarding site permits and conditions," Malin said. The study is posted at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/air2>.

BPA MAPS UMPQUA TEMPS

In an unusual twist, BPA used a special helicopter-mounted camera normally used to find hotspots on transmission lines to search for cool spots. The cool spots were salmon holes in Oregon's Umpqua River. BPA Pilot Wayne Noonan flew the entire 250-mile Umpqua River system while co-pilot Joel Haugen of Smart Map Imaging used a FLIR camera (forward-looking infrared radiometer) to record temperatures on a 1,000-foot-wide swath. He also took ordinary video footage.


"This flight will provide important habitat information" for sensitive fish populations, said Dave Loomis of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. According to Loomis, biologists will be particularly grateful to see details of habitat conditions in this low-water year.

BPA co-sponsored the infrared flyover with Douglas Electric Cooperative, ODFW, the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Douglas County.


PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT


STATUS REPORTS



Blackfoot Wind Project EIS. Mont. — To acquire 36-66 megawatts of electricity from the proposed wind project.

NEW! Cliff's Energy Project ROD. Wash. — Integration of a proposed 225-megawatt natural-gas-fired power plant near Goldendale. 

Coeur d'Alene Tribe (CDA) Trout Production Facility Project EA. Idaho — To fund design, construction, operation and maintenance of a facility to provide off-site mitigation for losses on the mainstem Columbia River.


Condon Wind Project EIS. Ore. — To acquire about 50 megawatts of electricity from the proposed wind project. The final EIS is (#3376). 

Federal Columbia River Power System Implementation Plan. Regionwide. — Draft plan for operating the Columbia River Power System Operations in 2002-2006 to carry out biological opinions issued under the Endangered Species Act. See www.salmonrecovery.gov 

Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS. Regionwide — To examine potential impacts of implementing one of the fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in regional processes. Draft EIS is available; the final is being prepared (#0312).  

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EA. Ore. — To build egg incubation and juvenile rearing facilities on the Lostine and Imnaha rivers and modify the Gumboot and Lookingglass facilities.

Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement EA. Idaho — Develop native chinook salmon broodstock for rearing of acclimated smolts to preserve and recover the population.


Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project EIS. Wash. — To build a 500-kV transmission line in King County to connect an existing transmission line near Kangley to Echo Lake Substation. The draft EIS is available (#3017). Comment period closed Sept. 4. 

Longview Energy Development ROD. Integration of a proposed 290-MW natural gas fired power plant in Longview, Wash. 

Maiden Wind Farm EIS. Wash. — To acquire 150 to 494 megawatts of power from the proposed wind project.

McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project EIS. Ore. and Wash. — To build about 75 miles of new 500-kV transmission line from McNary Substation to John Day Substation.


Mercer Ranch Power Generation Project EIS. Wash. — BPA will be a cooperating agency on a Washington State Environmental Protection Act EIS to integrate an 850-megawatt natural-gas-fired combustion turbine 11 miles west of Paterson.


Regional Air Quality Modeling Study. Regionwide — To examine the potential cumulative impacts on air quality if numerous power plants proposed for construction in BPA's service territory are all completed. 




Santiam-Bethel Transmission Line Project EA. Ore. — To rebuild 17-miles of the Santiam-Chemawa line to double-circuit to accommodate a new 230-kV transmission line from the Santiam Substation to a Portland General Electric line to PGE's Bethel Substation.

Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project EIS. Wash. — To build a new 500-kV line to relieve constraints on several lines, provide more operational flexibility to meet endangered salmon obligations and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy.

Starbuck Power Project EIS. Wash. — To integrate proposed

1,200 MW natural gas fired power plant into the power grid, a 16-mile, 500-kV transmission line would be built from the plant to BPA's Lower Monumental Substation. 

Temporary Small Resource Policy. Regionwide. — ROD is available. 

Umatilla Generating Project EIS. Ore. — To integrate electrical power from a new 550-megawatt natural gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine generation plant proposed by the Umatilla Generating Co., LP. Draft EIS is available (0324).   

Vegetation Management EIS Supplement Analyses 

- Schultz-Raver No. 1 and 2, miles 48 to 60, Wash. (SA-19).
- McNary-Ross 161/1 to 166/5/346 right-of-way, Wash. (SA-20).
- Noxon-Hot Springs/Taft-Hot Springs 56/3 to 66/7/600 right-of-way Mont. (SA-21).
- Chief Joseph-Snohomish No. 3 and 4 right-of-way Wash. (SA-22).
- Schultz-Raver No. 1 and 2 from 60/3 to 75/5 and the Olympia-Grand Coulee from 70/2 to 70/5 right-of-way, Wash. (SA-23).

Wallula-McNary Transmission Line and Wallula Power Project EIS. Ore. and Wash. — To build 34 miles of transmission line from a proposed gas-fired power generation project in Wallula, Wash., to McNary Substation, Ore.

Watershed Management EIS Supplement Analyses 

- Asotin Creek Channel, Floodplain and Riparian Restoration (2001), Asotin Creek Watershed, Wash. (SA-58).
- Reestablish Safe Access into Tributaries of the Yakima Subbasin, Tucker Creek Fish Passage Project, Tucker Creek, Wash. (SA-59).
- Wagner Ranch Acquisition, John Day River Subbasin, Ore. (SA-60).

White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers Upstream From Bonneville Dam EA. Ore., Wash. and Idaho. — To restore and mitigate for lost white sturgeon productivity caused by development and operation of the hydro-power system using intensive fisheries management and modified hydro system operation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Conservation or Crisis? A Northwest Choice. Conference sponsored by BPA and NewsData. **Sept. 24-26**, DoubleTree Hotel, Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Dr., Portland, Ore. Contact Jennifer Eskil (509) 527-6232 for info.

Umatilla Generating Project Draft EIS. Public meeting and open house. Sept. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St., Hermiston, Ore.

Wallula-McNary Transmission Line and Wallula Power Project EIS. Public scoping meeting Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Middle School Cafeteria, 835 Maple St. Burbank, Wash.

Starbuck Power Project EIS. Public scoping meeting and open house. Oct. 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Starbuck School, 717 Tucannon St., Starbuck, Wash.

CLOSE OF COMMENT


Federal Columbia River Power System Implementation Plan. Draft for 2002-2006. **Sept. 7.**

Cliffs Energy Project. Comments for consideration in ROD. **Sept. 14.**

Wallula-McNary Power Line and Wallula Power Project. Scoping. **Extended to Oct. 5.**

Umatilla Generating Project. Draft EIS. **Oct. 15.**

If you have questions or comments, or to be added to the mailing list for any projects, call (503) 230-3478 (Portland) or 1-800-622-4519.

The *Journal* is a monthly newsletter of the Bonneville Power Administration for customers and interested publics. Unless otherwise noted, documents cited are being prepared.  Indicates a document is available. To order documents, call: 800-622-4520 or (503) 230-7334. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. E-mail address: comment@BPA.gov For more information, see the BPA home page: <http://www.bpa.gov>

Process Abbreviations: EA – Environmental Assessment, EIS – Environmental Impact Statement, FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact, ROD – Record of Decision, SA – Supplement Analysis.